

VZCZCXRO5267  
PP RUEHBC RUEHDE RUEHIHL RUEHKUK  
DE RUEHGB #1041 0851051  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 261051Z MAR 07  
FM AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0373  
INFO RUCNRAQ/IRAQ COLLECTIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 001041

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/26/2017  
TAGS: [PTER](#) [PGOV](#) [PINS](#) [IZ](#)  
SUBJECT: SADRISTS TELL LOCAL COUNCILS IN SADR CITY TO SHUT  
THEIR DOORS

Classified By: PRT Leader Joe Gregorie, Reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

[1](#)1. (U) This is a Baghdad PRT Reporting Cable.

[1](#)2. (C) Summary: According to Sadr City District Council member Ali Swadi, Sadrists leaders put out a directive on March 18 to all local councils in Sadr City to cease operations and not cooperate with MNF units. Not all council members are in agreement with this policy, signifying a possible split among different factions of Sadrists-aligned local leaders. End Summary.

[1](#)3. (C) The directive against the local councils, which was announced after an emergency meeting of all Sadr City councils (District and Neighborhood) on March 18, was justified by the Sadrists by claiming that it was unsafe for local councils to meet due to the government's ineffective response to the attack on Sadr City qa'im makam Raheem al-Duraji. Ali Swadi, a local independent council member, said this was a joke, because it was most likely Sadrists who attacked al-Duraji in the first place. The Sadrists were making this declaration, Swadi said, because of MNF presence in Sadr City, and the establishment of a joint security center there. Ali Swadi said that the current Sadr City DC Chairman, Abd al-Hassan Jabar al-Kaby, is toeing the line of the Sadrists with which he is affiliated.

[1](#)4. (C) Chairman al-Kaby then held a follow-up meeting with his District Council members on March 19 to discuss practical steps toward calling for an all-out boycott against MNF cooperation. According to Swadi, some members are willing to along with al-Kaby only because they are afraid of Jash al Mahdi (JAM) militia reprisals if they don't. Swadi said that threats against members who cooperate with US forces were specifically made by al-Kaby, who was accompanied at this closed-door session of the Council by a Colonel in the Iraqi Army.

[1](#)5. (C) Comment: The comments by Ali Swadi have been corroborated by other local council members. In general, there seems to be a developing division within Sadr City politics: Sadrists who seek to raise tensions, Sadrists who seek cooperation, and local independents who are trying to stay out of the way. End comment  
KHALILZAD